

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the coastal waters of Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

May 26, 2017 to June 22, 2017

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The Virginia CZM Program seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing to implement management measures for the blueline tilefish fishery in the U. S. Exclusive Economic Zone north of the Virginia/North Carolina border. The measures include harvest limits, commercial and recreational possession limits, and permit and reporting requirements, as developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Blueline tilefish are managed in the south Atlantic Ocean by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council as part of its Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. However, jurisdiction of the council's regulations on blueline tilefish in the U. S. economic zone only extend as far north as the latitude of the Virginia/North Carolina border. Therefore, there are currently no federal regulations for blueline tilefish north of that border in the Greater Atlantic Region. According to the federal consistency determination (FCD), the proposed action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Julia Wellman
DEQ Central Office, 6th Floor
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia, 23219
Phone: (804) 698-4326
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov